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THE ADVENTURE PICKING EVENT

Tuning in
New outdoors column by Steve Galea.
See page 2.

Arrived
New column by HHSS alumnus Emily Stonehouse.
See page 6.

Return of the Jolly Jog
Festive event encourages outdoor fun.
See page 7.



Sumcot Road took on the look of a winter wonderland, following of an evening snowfall on Nov. 17 in Highlands East. The varying temperatures of the past few weeks has continuously changed the look of the Highlands, including Sumcot Road. /DARREN LUM Staff

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Tuning into the great outdoors

EARLIER THIS fall, I was approaching one of the deer stands I bow hunt from. I was not going there to hunt on that day, but rather to check trail cameras and refresh the bait piles situated in front of them.

As soon as I slipped over the rise, however, I realized something was amiss. There was not a single chipmunk or squirrel raiding the bait site.

That trivial fact made me take notice.

Bait piles, after all, generally attract more than the animals they were intended for. Over the years, my trail cameras have captured images of unsuspecting raccoons, foxes, skunks, groundhogs, eastern wolves, bears, goshawks, moose, grouse, ravens, fishers, and wild turkey. And while deer almost always

show up too, the most common visitors are chipmunks, red and eastern gray squirrels, along with blue jays and chickadees.

On that morning, however, there was not a single rodent in sight. So, I scanned the trees near the bait –

and, lo and behold – my suspicions were confirmed. A barred owl perched on a low branch was presumably awaiting the arrival of its next meal.

I mention this story because it illustrates one of the many benefits of maintaining a situational awareness in the outdoors. Sometimes, being tuned in results in pleasant little surprises. For it can prompt you to examine things you might not have otherwise paid attention to – like that bone white branch that turns out to be a shed antler. Other times, it can save your life, by drawing your attention to real dangers like questionable ice or widow makers caught in overhanging branches.

For the hunter, being attuned often means the difference between harvesting game or going home empty-handed. A tuned-in hunter hears the crunching leaves caused by approaching deer or the first wingbeats of a rapidly departing grouse.

Paying attention in the field might also save your dog from a face full of porcupine quills or smelling like a skunk. For, if you see those animals first, it's easier to avert those unpleasant encounters.

Basically, it's just about being curious about the sights and sounds, and paying attention to wind direction and velocity, incoming weather, scents (I once smelled a buck before I ever saw it – and, as a result, tagged it), tracks, animal signs, food sources, and the behaviour of other animals as well as any movement that catches your eye. It's about using little details to paint the big picture.

If a hunter is aware of wind direction and how thermals act at different times of day he won't make the mistake of hunting with an unfavourable wind that spooks every deer, bear, and moose downwind, for example. Or set up waterfowl decoys in an unnatural orientation or location that ducks won't be drawn to.

Situational awareness provides you with clues. And the more clues you have, the easier it is to solve the mystery.

Look at it this way. One deer scrape merely tells you

that a buck was here and, if you notice a discernible track, perhaps an indication of size. A series of deer scrapes, however shows the buck's line of travel, and combined with prevailing wind, might even allow you to deduce how that buck approaches his scrapes and where he scent-checks them from. That kind of information puts venison in the freezer.

Similarly, a grouse hunter with situational awareness might note that hawthorn berries are plentiful and spend a little more time searching for his quarry around them. Or she might notice that every grouse flushed on a particular day was near a yellow birch and start looking for a pattern accordingly.

Some of the best clues can even be found in the behaviour of animals. When a doe looks over her shoulder, she's probably watching an approaching deer. If you see several eastern grey squirrels chasing each other in a reckless manner through the treetops you would be correct in assuming its their breeding time – complete with the accompanying, entertaining treetop antics as the female does its best to make her suitors earn the right.

Situational awareness doesn't require expensive gear or much experience either, just the patience to slow down and truly take notice of things around you and the curiosity to wonder what it might mean for your outdoors experience.

Do this enough and you will amass experiences that will help you understand that even in the outdoors things happen for logical reasons. Go slow, be observant, try to solve those little mysteries. That's half the fun of being out there. That's how you learn, whether you're a hunter or not.

Steve Galea has been a regular columnist with the Haliburton County Echo and Minden Times, as well as an award-winning outdoors writer for more than 25 years. He is an avid hunter and fly fisherman with an interest in all things outdoors. This is the first in a series of outdoors-related columns. Visit him on Instagram @sgalea6953.

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Community Events

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The Book Nook, Minden Hills Library

is now open, indoors, to one patron at a time. When: 10 to 2 p.m. on the first and third Fridays of the month. Payment is by donation. The Book Nook is run by volunteers from our Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library group. Your donations support the purchase of books, enhancements and programmes in all Haliburton County libraries.

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust Online Holiday Auction and Sale

When: Dec. 1 to 12
Bid on Maple Leaf tickets, framed Dan Busby photographs, or Adopt an Acre of Dahl Forest or Barnum Creek Nature Reserve. Bid, Buy, Donate! Register at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca.

Lift Your Sweets Cookie Sale

When: Saturday, Dec. 11, 10 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion
Buy your sweets for the holidays. A project to raise funds for our elevator.

Environment Haliburton Enviro-Cafe

When: Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m.
Where: virtual, via zoom. Go to www.environmenthaliburton.org to register
Korey McKay, Haliburton County's Climate Action Coordinator will speak about the County's climate action plan. Q and A will follow. For more info contact Terry Moore 705-306-9254.

CountyLife

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

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Keep track of what's happening in the county.

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Reading my way through winter

JANET TRULL

Special to County Life

We are fast approaching my favourite time of year. "Hunker down and hibernate" season. The stack of books on my nightstand reassures me that I am prepared to be snowed in for days. With the planet tilting toward darkness, I turn to my fictional friends for comfort, wisdom, companionship and yes, even the occasional love affair.

These friends can be funny. Lots of them have family issues and romance troubles. Some are resilient friends who survived the holocaust. There are traumatized, unemployed, and homeless friends. Friends with terminal illnesses. Some are criminals.

Not all criminals are bad guys, of course. Emmett Watson, for example. He's the protagonist in Amor Towles' new book, *The Lincoln Highway*. A good guy who killed a bad guy by mistake. It happens. This is a story that reminds me of *Grapes of Wrath* and not just because Emmett is headed for California with a crazy number of obstacles to overcome on the way. He has a moral code, like Tom Joad. His parents died and the house has been repossessed and he has a younger brother to take care of. So, if you feel like your life is really tough right now, you just need to read about people like Emmett who have it worse than you do. Believe me, you'll feel better in a hurry.

Winter is coming. No way to avoid it. So try a book where the winter is harsh-

er than it is here in Haliburton. *August into Winter* by Canadian author, Guy Vanderhaeghe reminds us that the wind blows some merciless blizzards in rural Manitoba. It is 1939, a bleak time by all accounts. And there is trouble in a small town. A town with some quirky characters who would not be out of place in the back booth at the Kosy Korner.

Some of my books are borrowed. Some books are bargains from the Thrift Warehouse. And I always have a successful treasure hunt at the Lily Ann. Of course, the Haliburton County Public Library is a constant source for reading. Their Facebook page, with regular updates and links to browse new arrivals on the red cart, is helpful and interactive.

Libby became a literary ally during the lock down days. Download the Libby app, type in the membership number from your local library card, and voila! Books and audiobooks downloaded for free in seconds to your mobile device. You can place holds and read chapter samples, too.

One more reading reminder. Because the doors of so many independent book stores have closed for good in the past few years, we are lucky that Master's Bookstore remains open and stocked to the rafters with reading material.

As the temperatures drop, I will wrap myself in blankets and read, read, read. Time will pass as I travel to foreign shores (oh my gosh, that reminds me: *What Strange Paradise*, by Omar El Akkad is a beautifully written refugee story). One day, I will put my bookmark

between the pages and look up and the black flies will be tapping at the window. It will be spring in the Highlands.

Time to carry my stack of books to the screened in porch.

New features for HHHSF monthly 50/50 lottery

Last month, Highlands resident Vince Duchene won \$3,420 for being the winner of the November 50/50 Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation lottery.

For December there will be two early bird prizes of \$250 added to the draw schedule on Dec. 15, with the grand prize taking place Dec. 31.

Also for December only, participants will get 25 per cent more ticket numbers with their ticket purchases: \$5 for six ticket numbers, \$10 for 25 ticket numbers, \$20 for 125 ticket numbers.

Tickets are now available for purchase for the December draws.

To be eligible for the early bird draws, tickets must be purchased by 11:59 pm on Dec. 14. Entries close for the grand prize draw at 11:59 pm on Dec. 30, and the grand prize draw will take place on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31. Note that it is possible to win both the early bird and grand prize draws. Tickets can be purchased online at www.hhhsf5050.ca and in person at the HHHSF's Haliburton office, located at 7199 Gelert Rd. Visit the website for the rules of play, to see the

current estimated take-home prize, and to purchase tickets.

Submitted by Lisa Tompkins (HHHSF)



Highlands resident Vince Duchene had his name drawn for the HHHSF 50/50 November draw worth \$3,420.

/Submitted by Lisa Tompkins

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We have a lot of freedoms
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And often miss the score
They think they've done the research
They fear the fear itself
Though vaccines during childhood
Kept dire disease on shelf
Both faith and science save us
We can't invent our fate
Nor focus on survival
With self our one debate
Big picture rests on wisdom
Not theory of one's own
The role of immunology
Is safety cornerstone
Our freedoms let us protest
We challenge what we're told
In most ways it's a good thing
Democracy is old
Pandemic, though, is crisis
Our innocents can die
We'll vaccinate our puppies
Why not to selves apply
New efforts to protect us
New strategies to cope
It's simply single mindset
When world health goes downslope
If freedom to speak out here
Is freedom to complain
Then poets too may rhyme their fears
That viruses will reign

Deborah J Reed

Op-Ed

HHHS launches Epic information system

Imagine going to any hospital in the Central East Region of Ontario and your care team has real-time access to all your hospital medical information so they can provide the safest care for you or your loved ones. Consider the peace of mind a modern, computer-based personal health record would bring, with less need for you or your loved ones to repeat your medical history as you move from one hospital to another.

This vision has been realized as of Dec. 3.

The Haliburton Highland Health Services (HHHS), along with six partner hospital organizations in Central East Ontario, will introduce Epic. Epic is a modern, secure, computer-based clinical information system that will provide a single personal health record for each patient in the region.

As the largest and most transformative project in HHHS' history, Epic is a game changer and will vastly improve the way care is delivered across the Central East Region for generations to come.

Of course, with any major transformation, there is a lot of learning and education that goes along with it. As HHHS transitions to this faster, safer, and better way to deliver care, patients and families may initially notice longer than usual wait times and some processes that will be done differently. For example, if you arrive at any one of our emergency departments, some processes may take a bit more time than usual as our staff become familiar with the system.

We thank you in advance for your patience. Our teams appreciate your understanding as they ramp up their understanding and use of the new technology.

Through Epic, health-care providers from all over our region will be better able to collaborate with each other

to make the best possible decision about a person's care and treatment. Since the information is provided in real-time, we anticipate better outcomes through a more seamless experience, and standardized tools and processes through the Epic system will help to reduce duplication of tests and ensure that care is given at the highest quality and level of safety.

Epic will help to advance our vision of Leaders in Innovative Rural Health Care, fostering healthier populations across Haliburton County.

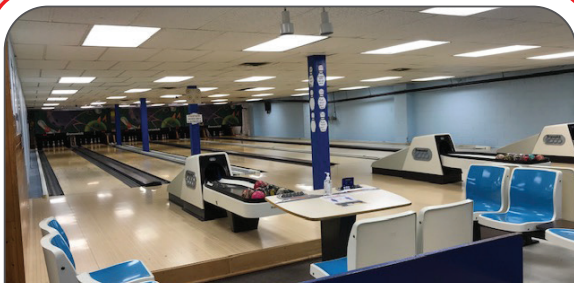
This is a tremendous achievement and one that has taken many years to plan. The new Epic clinical information system will go live not only at HHHS, but also at Campbellford Memorial Hospital, Northumberland Hills Hospital, Peterborough Regional Health Centre, Ross Memorial Hospital, Scarborough Health Network, and Lakeridge Health.

This joint effort represents the largest number of individual organizations across Ontario joining together to offer this safer, seamless, and more patient-friendly experience for over 1.5 million Ontarians.

Epic is one of the world's largest electronic health records software companies. HHHS and our partners in the Central East Region are in good company with other leading hospitals in North America which also offer this system, including the Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic, The Ottawa Hospital, SickKids, and others.

We are excited about our Epic transformation and the benefits it will bring to our region.

Carolyn Plummer,
CEO Haliburton Highlands Health Services



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 darren@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed
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Editorial

No place like home

HELLO HALIBURTON County, my name is Emily Stonehouse. Some of you may know me as the daughter of woodshop teacher, Mr. Stonehouse. Others may know me as the daughter of the colourful Ms. Phipps. I am sure *at least* a few of you may know me as the granddaughter of Fred and Judy Phipps - they like to go bowling on Mondays

and hit up local restaurants on a regular basis. All friendly faces, all around.

When you're growing up in the Haliburton Highlands, you're often known as your relation to someone else. "Oh, that's Linda's cousin!" "Yes, I went to school with your uncle!" "Oh, isn't what's-her-name married to so-and-so?"

Connections. In this column, I'll give my frank overview

of life as a 30-something who returned to her hometown. Yes, it may sound like the premise of a holiday-themed Hallmark movie, but it's not always hot cocoa and ill-timed snowstorms (actually, maybe it is.)

I spent 18 years in this town. Like many others who spent the first 18 years of their life in a small town, I had big dreams of my next chapter. Bright lights, big city. I mean, I had Journey's *Don't Stop Believing* as my

No.1 played song on my clunky iPod. "Just a small town girl, living in a lonely world ..."

So, after graduating from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, I moved away. To Ottawa. To Halifax. To Penticton. To Toronto. To St. John's. I did the rounds. I went to new schools. I had an array of jobs. Some of them I loved, some of them just paid the bills. I picked cherries and apples. I lived in a tent for a bit. I saw wild whales in the ocean and hiked Machu Picchu. I did the rounds.

Through all these journeys; through pubs and music halls and fields and restaurants - something was missing. Sure, I made friends, found-families, adopted a few cats who travelled with me wherever I went, but I just wasn't ... home.

My favourite movie growing up was Wizard of Oz. The weirdness, the wackiness, the whimsy. Upon watching the movie as an adult again, I realized the core message that really hit home for me. It wasn't the magic of it, it was the moral: There's no place like home.

One day, I came home. I'll get into the nitty gritty of why in another column, but for now, all you need to know is that on a snowy day in December, five years ago, I set foot in Haliburton once again.

I wasn't instantly home. As a young adult, when you come back to your hometown, there's always the pre-conceived notion that you're stepping back into old

patterns. I am so-and-so's kid again. While I love my family, and am immensely proud to be their offspring, as an adult, you want to be, just, yourself. Who are you apart from your upbringing. How do you carve a path that's been previously whittled down for you.

Long story short, you don't. You lean into those who supported you in your most pivotal chapters, then use that as a springboard to map new terrain. When I came back, I had no intentions of staying. But suddenly, after 10 years away, I felt that thing I'd been missing for so long. Connections. A new connection to my family once again. A new connection to the community. To the families walking their dogs in the park. To the men sipping their coffee outside the West Guilford Shopping Centre every morning. To the Santa Claus Parades. To the live music. To the community who shows up during floods and snowstorms and everything in between.

There are connections in this town. Roots that run deep and families who hold strong. I have so much to say about this place we call home, but above all, the theme of this column, from your token 30-something in the Haliburton Highlands, is that although you may sometimes feel like you're spinning in a cyclone and dreaming of bright days ahead, I can assure you, there's no place like home.



EMILY STONEHOUSE
Special to County Life

Top 10 reasons dogs hate cones

RECENTLY, MY dog Rosie has been sentenced to 14 days of wearing a cone collar. Like all dogs, she isn't fond of the idea. So, I sat down with her and asked why they bother her so much. Here are Rosie's top 10 answers.



STEVE GALEA
 Humour Columnist

1. Now when I bark loudly, I know how annoying it is.
2. Cats get extra vicious when cornered in one.
3. Under the mistaken impression that you meant ice cream cone.
4. Prevents me from showing polite company how flexible I really can be.
5. Makes it dangerous to look up during a heavy rain.
6. Harder to pretend I didn't hear a command with amplifying effect.
7. Thought we were done with the Elizabethan-era costumes.
8. You keep borrowing it to top up windshield washer fluid.
9. Can't get through cat door with one on.
10. Not exactly aerodynamic.



Still life

Scratches of trees poking through Snow,
 cloaking the ribbon of road that unspools beneath my feet,
 beneath a smudge of charcoal Sky,
 spokes of tall grasses, fragile as glass,
 peeping through Snow, on the side of the road,
 one of them breaking, as I feel its spine,
 its brittleness, slipping through my fingers, into the Snow.
 For a moment, I feel frail as the stalk of tall grass,
 barely leaving a dent in the Snow,
 daunted by the hill my Breath and feet have to climb.
 Snow sprawling all around me, fresh and pure and clean,
 still unsullied by tracks, only the ones my footsteps leave behind.
 I stand in the middle of the road, slumping my shoulders in the cold,
 inhaling clumps of Air that chill and invigorate me at the same time,
 the caws of invisible crows, taunting me, daring me to begin my climb.
 I glance up at the few leaves still dangling from their trees,
 wondering what makes their stems stronger than the others,
 that lie by the side of the road, buried in Snow.
 I inhale the stillness of the hill that looms in front of me,
 the smear of steel Sky, as I begin to climb, my boots soiling the newborn Snow.
 I listen to the softness of my footsteps colliding with Snow,
 a hush swathing Air, as I climb, the crows burrowed deep in their trees,
 the stray leaves clinging to their twigs, goading me on, to slog through the Snow,
 the hill not seeming so steep, the farther I climb,
 the road cradling my every step, Air holding each blossom of Breath,
 as I let its freshness seep into me,
 no longer feeling as frail as I felt at the bottom of the hill.
 I stop at the side of the road, to gaze down at the white veil of Lake,
 fringed by hills of trees, poking through Snow,
 a leaf or two, still clinging to their twigs, refusing to let go,
 a trail of crows bleeding into Sky,
 as I close my eyes for a moment and listen to the stillness of Snow,
 cloaking the ribbon of road that led me Here,
 to breathe amongst these scratches of trees,
 beneath this dome of deepening Sky.

Sylvie Kalenda

It's time to get Jolly jogging again

KATE BUTLER

Special to *County Life*

As we all know, many local holiday traditions were put on hold in 2020, but it's been so exciting to see a number of them returning this year, including Dysart et al's Jolly Jog, which will be back on Dec. 12.

An initiative of Dysart et al's Recreation Department, the event uses the Haliburton Highlands Museum as its home base, which means we get a front row seat for all the fun.

When this all-ages event was first launched in 2013, it was first known as the Ugly Sweater Run, but any and all holiday attire is encouraged, the more festive

and creative the better. We've seen everything from traditional sweaters and bedecked hats to holiday onesies and full-scale costumes. (One year someone even dressed up as a mantelpiece, complete with a tablet playing a recording of a fireplace!) However you dress up this year, make sure to include a mask, as COVID-19 protocols will be in place to keep everyone safe. This year, there will be two routes that participants are welcome to enjoy, a shorter one through the Glebe Park trails and a longer one heading into the village. You're welcome to run, jog, walk or even ski or snowshoe the park route, if the weather suits. It's definitely not a race – do whatever feels right for you and just have fun being active outdoors.

All participants will be entered in a draw for some fabulous door prizes and everyone who takes part will receive a special keepsake to remind them of the 2021 Jolly Jog. While this is an event that's about holiday fun and physical activity, it's also about helping in the community. There's no fee to take part, but we will be collecting cash donations in support of the Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank.

So, mark your calendars for Sunday, Dec. 12 at 11 a.m. and get started on plans for your holiday attire now! For more details, head on over to www.dysartetal.ca, where you can also pre-register for the event. We look forward to seeing you all looking fabulously festive very soon!



November mood
Highlands resident Tammy Nash took this photo she calls Days of Fog Thursday, Nov. 25 in Algonquin Highlands. /Submitted by Tammy Nash



Huskies help raise awareness
Haliburton County Huskies defenceman Riley Rogers, from left, and owner Paul Wilson, cancer survivor Tyler Parret drops the puck for a ceremonial faceoff with Huskies assistant general manager Brian MacKenzie and Cobourg Cougars defenceman Tucker Firth on Hockey Fights Cancer awareness night at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden on Friday, Nov. 26.
/Photo submitted by Alex Gallacher

Legion Events

Branch 129 Haliburton
Tuesday night:
Dart League starting at 7 p.m.
Haliburton Army Cadets practice
6:30 to 9 p.m. (Sept. to June)
Wednesdays:
Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo
starts at 7 p.m. \$500 jackpot
Thursdays:
General Meeting third Thursday
of the month, starting at 7 p.m. All
members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the
month at 1 p.m.
Fridays:
Meat draw five draws, five prizes
each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m.,
last draw - 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$2
per draw. Don Pitman, MC

Friday fun darts - 4:30 p.m. onwards
Saturdays:
50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw,
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onwards

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Gifts *from* *the* Heart

“SIRCH provides an impressive array of supports for the more vulnerable members of our society, from meal provision (Community Kitchen), to family programs (Share the Warmth, School's Cool, Way to Grow) and social enterprises (Thrift Warehouses, Bistro & Marketplace). These services have a positive impact on the physical and emotional well-being of our community.”

- Dr. Laurie Brown

Former Owner, Haliburton Veterinary Services

As we enter into the second full winter of the COVID-19 pandemic, things are slowly improving for many of us, however; that is not the case for our most vulnerable residents. Diminishing government supports, precarious housing, and rising prices for basic necessities are of great concern for us at SIRCH as we undertake our 10th annual Gifts from the Heart campaign.

Last year we asked for your help. Because of your generosity, SIRCH provided over 35,000 meals, soups and fruit FREE to those in need! It is essential that we continue to produce healthy meals to meet the urgent need in Haliburton County.

You can help make it happen.

Please give generously to SIRCH's Gifts from the Heart.



**Donate online: www.sirch.on.ca/donate
e-transfer: donate@sirch.on.ca
or phone SIRCH: 705-457-1742**



"I had been part of a mom's group at SIRCH so in desperation I called them. The woman who answered was calming and kind. She said they could get me some meals and have them delivered by a volunteer. When the meals were dropped off I saw they had given us enough for 4 days and every meal had lots of protein and vegetables. But SIRCH had also put in soups, desserts, and fresh fruit! I have to say that for the first time in a long time I felt hope."



"Thank you so very much for the [free] meals again. I have one senior tenant that has asked me 4 times if I have thanked you. She lives alone with no way to get groceries right now as her son lives out of the area and always came every couple weeks to get her groceries, but he hasn't been feeling well and is afraid to make her sick, so he hasn't been coming. Thank you so much for caring!"



Please mail this form to SIRCH Community Services, P.O. Box 687, 49 Maple Avenue, Unit 4, Haliburton ON K0M 1S0.

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$_____

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Haliburton Cadets recognized

Captain Corina Hall of the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps 1129 Haliburton accepted The Army Cadet League of Canada Anniversary Certificate for its 35 year anniversary from captain Rick Brown at the Royal Canadian Legion in Haliburton on Tuesday, Nov. 30. The certificate recognizes the corps existence from 1985 to 2020 because it was intended to have been presented last year, but was postponed because of the pandemic. /Submitted by Max Ward.



The Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps 1129 Haliburton Lieutenant Max Ward, far left, accepted the Top Small Army Cadet Corps Central Ontario Region from Captain Rick Brown with 1129 Haliburton's Lieutenant Greg Powell. / Photo submitted by Max Ward

Deck the Halls! The most wonderful gift of all

The joy of moving colour with a brush doesn't get old. Before you know it, hours have passed, and you've been pleasantly lost in making your mark, revealing designs, telling stories.

Growing up, as kids, we were naturally folded into the tradition of home made gifts. It was loose, not meant to be an added pressure. With a large family of hard working folks, making gifts was not only a personal gesture, but it was also frugal, resources were scarce in the 1970s and 1980s for this family of farmers and labourers.

We were born into this nature to craft, thanks to our grandmother who wove making into our fabric. In one way or another, we have all inherited a love of working with our hands.

Though times have changed, and I don't see enough of the aunts, uncles and cousins, every year when it's time to decorate the tree, I'm flooded with nostalgia as I open my box of precious ornaments. Collected over decades, all were gifted, many made by the hands of my aunts or the aunts of others, purchased from holiday craft shows and church bazaars. Each year decorating the tree, I'm flooded with gratitude, for the memories, for the love of aunts, and for inheriting my grandmother's passion to make. Of all of the gifts left under various trees over the years, it's this box of ornaments that continues to carry my holiday heart.

About six years ago, we started offering ornament decorating workshops at

Blackbird Pottery. It's been this lovely new tradition, to wrap up the business for the year, by sharing the joy of hand-painting porcelain ornaments. People would gather with friends or family as the holiday season kicked off, or on their own to learn something new and enjoy the company, the humour and the sharing of stories while painting. It's also one of the most universal and accessible of our offerings.

We so missed these workshops last year, but have found our way back, with offering both in-house workshops on Dec. 11 and 12, and now take-home kits for those who still prefer to stay home, and share or gift the experience with their loved ones.

Our kits are great bang for the buck with 10 porcelain ornaments per kit, carefully crafted by elves that you get to personalize, and keep or gift to others. This year, it feels right to donate 10 per cent of the proceeds from the sale of kits and Ornament Workshops to our food banks. As a bonus, if you return the tools from your kit, you'll earn a \$5 studio credit as a thank you for helping us to reduce waste, or you can keep the tools if you have a use for them. It's a win-win.

We still have a few seats left for our workshops on Dec. 11 and 12 and kits are ready to roll!

To register, or purchase a kit, visit www.blackbirdpottery.ca.

Submitted by April Gates

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Legion hosts local talent

Gary Baumgartner of Gary and the Rough Ideas band looks over to his bandmate Andy Salvatori during a concert on Nov. 20 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Haliburton. A few dozen attended the event, which featured the Highlands-based band. The Legion works to support local talent and appreciates the community for their patronage. They will be hosting an open mic event on Dec. 11. Sign up for this with the Haliburton County Folk Society at www.haliburtonfolk.com./DARREN LUM Staff



COVID-19 protocols are in place at the Royal Canadian Legion in Haliburton, as seen with masked dancers being serenaded by the Gary and the Rough Ideas band on Nov. 20.



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NOVEMBER 19

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- Demonstrated photography and photo editing skills
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- Must have access to a vehicle and a valid driver's licence
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Interested candidates should forward their resume with writing and photography samples to Publisher, David Zilstra by **Friday, December 10th**
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Applications are being accepted for a full-time home and cottage designer at Haliburton store. Successful candidates should have a CAD design experience, good working knowledge of the Ontario Building Code and familiarity with building products and construction techniques. In-house training will be provided and assistance towards acquiring a BCIN designation.

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Close call

Dog owner recalls anti-freeze poisoning

4



Arena update

Some changes made in plan for Dysart barn

25



Santa comes to town

Santa Claus waves to the crowds along Highland Street during the Haliburton Santa Claus Parade on Friday evening, Nov. 23. With 44 parade floats and four bands, this Caribbean-themed event, which was a co-ordinated effort between the Haliburton Village BIA and the Haliburton Lions Club, was slightly bigger than last year. See more on page 10.

Darren Lum
Staff

Pond hockey coming to Haliburton

Jenn Watt
Editor

Haliburton will be the home of the 2013 Canadian Pond Hockey Championships.

After much deliberating, Neil Lumsden and J-Core Marketing made their decision to locate the popular event in the Highlands Jan. 25 to 27 and Feb. 1 to 3.

"One of the great things about this [place] –

one of the reasons we made the decision – is the community support is huge," Lumsden said in an interview.

Lumsden founded the championships seven years ago in Huntsville and was searching for a new venue this year.

In 2013, the championships will use Haliburton's Head Lake and the Pinestone Resort's pond as venues with on-site food and beverages.

About 1,600 players come to the championships each year in 260 teams.

The goal is to replicate the foundations of Canadian hockey – out on a frozen lake with shoveled snow making up the boards.

"It's the camaraderie, it's the competition, it's playing outside on a not-so-perfect surface," Lumsden said.

Lobbying on behalf of Haliburton was John Teljeur, who played in the tournament in previous years and knew Lumsden personally.

When he heard the event likely wasn't

see CHAMPIONSHIPS page 24



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A RARE FIND! 1677 feet of frontage and 6+ acres fronting on both beautiful Twelve Mile Lake and Little Boshkung Lake. This point lot is totally private and takes in multiple exposures and has stunning lake views. The historic "Strathcona Lodge" was located here. The original foundation is still present and has the potential to be built on. Two small historic cabins are also on the subject property. Don't miss this opportunity to build your dream home or getaway on one of the most peaceful settings in Haliburton County.

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MOUNTAIN STREET \$539,000



Fantastic home, situated on a year-round road in a lovely private neighbourhood. This lovingly owned and maintained home features 3 bdrms and full bathrm on the main level. Enjoy tons of natural lighting in the bright, spacious living room, dining area and kitchen. Step out to the sunroom and feel immersed in nature - overlooking the beautiful flowing creek and forest. Finished lower level with den/bedroom, renovated 3pc bathrm, and large rec room. Great sized lot and large double carport. This family home offers endless possibilities.

KAWAGAMA LAKE \$279,000



Stunning south views across the lake. This property has a fantastic shoreline of mixed sand/gravel gradual entry to the water. Hydro is at the lot line and there is good cell service. This is easily accessible from either marina on the lake. Enjoy this affordable lot in the summer while you make your plans for your new cottage. Great fishing year-round and fantastic snowmobiling in the winter.

STILLS ROAD \$128,500

SOLD



This beautiful 1.2-acre building lot is located in the heart of Eagle Lake. Driveway installed and building site is cleared and ready for your year-round home or getaway. Many apple trees throughout the property. Stunning park-like setting. Surrounded by mature trees in a quiet neighbourhood. Paved year-round municipal road. Walking distance to Eagle Lake Country market, Eagle Lake public beach and boat launch. Stop dreaming and start building your dream home or cottage.

WENONA LAKE \$94,500

SOLD



Fantastic lot in a quiet area. This 0.42-acre lot is the perfect spot to build your families dream cottage or home. Conveniently located on a year-round road with hydro and telephone available and located 15 minutes from Haliburton village. Surrounded by mature trees providing ample privacy. 1/12 interest (ownership) in waterfront lot 62 which has a beautiful sand shoreline and western exposure overlooking Wenona Lake. Adjacent lot is owned by the municipality adding additional privacy.

CHELSEA LANE \$69,900

SOLD



This pretty 1.52-acre lot is in the vicinity of the 3 lake chain- Green-Maple-Beech. Deeded access to Maple Lake within walking distance. Situated just outside West Guilford, between Camarvon and Haliburton with easy seasonal access off HWY 118. The lot is fairly level with a slight elevation to a great spot to build your retreat. Surrounded by mature trees in a quiet area. Ample privacy and lots of space for the family to enjoy the outdoors.

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